

September 10, 2009

WASHINGTON - Congressman Charlie Melancon (LA-03) announced today that the Assumption Parish Sheriff's Department has been awarded \$20,027 in federal funding to purchase seven P25 compatible radio systems. The new radios will allow officers to seamlessly communicate with Louisiana state police, federal responders and other emergency personnel using the Louisiana Statewide Interoperable System.

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"Our law enforcement officers and emergency responders are on the front lines protecting our communities and helping in emergencies and disasters," said Rep. Melancon. "This federal grant provides the technology needed for the Assumption Parish Sheriff's Department to communicate more effectively with other responders throughout the parish - and the state - and provide help to our citizens faster."

Assumption Parish Sheriff Michael Waguespack said the \$20,027 grant would allow the department to continue upgrading to a 700MHZ radio system, the latest in the first responder radio equipment technology. The new system works alongside the Louisiana state police network that is being built.

Sheriff Waguespack said, **"I want to thank our Congressional delegation, especially Congressman Charlie Melancon from Napoleonville, for his efforts in making these federal funds available to us through this grant application process. These funds will certainly take the pressure off of our capital outlay budget and will help fund vital tools needed in our office."**

This grant for the Assumption Parish Sheriff's Department is being funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, also called the Stimulus bill. The funding was awarded through the U.S. Department of Justice's Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program, which supports an array of initiatives to prevent and control local crime based on state and local needs.

Congressman Melancon has been a strong supporter in Congress of efforts to improve and streamline communication among local, state and federal emergency disaster personnel.

Melancon continued, "Local law enforcement officers in south Louisiana are the critical during emergencies and disasters, and this grant will help strengthen their vital communications network."

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